

measure and all mostly in fair condition. There were a few more moths at the lamps at dawn but apart from a male *D. templi* and a few more *L. l-album*, there was little of note, although the ivy produced a third *L. socia*. It was interesting to observe the build up of species towards midnight followed by a gradual decline, contrary to the pattern usually seen in the summer. In all, 25 species of macros were observed.

S. stopped at Swanage on his way down to Devon on 22nd September and took four *D. templi*, two *L. l-album*, and a few *H. leautieri* at light, whilst the ivy produced four *L. socia*, one *L. semibrunnea* and some common species. On 26th at Churston he took two more *L. socia* at ivy and on 30th found small larvae of *Ortholitha mucronata* Scop. fairly common at night on gorse.

As the weather looked right for *Ptilophora plumigera* Esp. on 11th November, S. and O'K. visited Ranmore where they took two specimens. It was not until 22nd that C. and O'K. visited Wye to try for the species but although conditions were promising very little came to the lights but searching the woods with paraffin lamps revealed a number of *Erannis aurantiaria* Esp. and *Operophtera fagata* Schiff., all in good condition. O'K. returned on the next night and secured eight male *P. plumigera*.

The final task of the season was to obtain wingless females of some of the winter species. S. had a successful outing to Mitcham Common on 25th when he found females of *E. defoliaria* and *E. aurantiaria* after five hours hard work and on 30th the three of us descended on Petts Wood where, in very damp conditions, pairs of *O. brumata* were numerous and *O. fagata* was abundant in both sexes. Birch trunks yielded eight female *E. aurantiaria*.

## *Psilocephala melaleuca* Loew. (Dip. Therevidae) in Berkshire

By PETER CROW

I recorded my capture (*Ent. mon. Mag.*, **103**: 176) (1967) of two specimens, both females, in Windsor Forest of *Psilocephala ardea* Fabr., and I am writing this note to say that these two insects have now been re-identified by the appropriate Therevid authority as specimens of the very rare British species *P. melaleuca* Loew.

I had always been unhappy about the original determination of my two insects and my doubts were based on my knowledge, as a collector, of the locality environment, which was so far away from the previous recorded ones for *P. ardea*: these were all from West Midland counties in a different kind of situation.

Thus the five known records of *P. melaleuca* in Great Britain, all from the Windsor area, are: May 1930, a male specimen bred by the late H. St. J. Donnisthorpe from a larva found in oak in May 1929; June 1940, a female specimen bred by A. A. Allen from a larva found in beech; 2nd July 1962, a female specimen captured by Prof. T. R. E. Southwood in his house at Ascot, Berks; 19th June 1967, two female specimens taken by myself in Windsor Forest.

In conclusion I would like to state for the benefit of future hunters of this species, that there is great sexual dimorphism.

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